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Northern Lambda Nord

Benj -

JJ -

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NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD

POB 990 CARIBOU MAINE 04736 USA

VOL.I : NO.7

15 OCTOBER 1980

IT'S ELECTION TIME, AGAIN, FOLKS! - by benj.

On Tuesday, November 4th, we will be asked to go to the polls and elect women and men to represent us in the State Senate and the Maine House of Representatives in Augusta as well as in the US House of Representatives in Washington. We will also elect a president to serve us for the next four years. Aroostook County will choose 14 State Representatives and 3 State Senators: every seat is up for election. The County, as part of Maine's 2nd Congressional District, will choose our Representatives in Congress.

The issues are many: the economy, jobs, energy, defense; as a diverse gay community, our opinions on these issues are varied. Yet there is one issue upon which we can all agree - gay people's desire for equal human rights. We live in fear of losing our jobs for being gay; we rent 2-bedroom apartments (complete with 2 beds) so the landlord won't find out we're gay and kick us out; we are denied access to the newspapers and radio stations right here in Aroostook County because we are gay.

Just as straight people did not choose to be straight, gay people did not choose to be gay - we just are. There are currently close to 50 communities throughout North America - villages, towns, cities, counties, and the Province of Québec - which have enacted laws to protect our rights, to allow us to be free, to live without fear, just as we are. Last year in the Maine Legislature, a bill was introduced to include the term "sexual orientation" in the list of protected categories in the Maine Human Rights Code (sex, race, color, natural origin...discrimination in Maine is prohibited on these grounds.) The bill to include lesbians and gay men failed to pass. It will undoubtedly be re-introduced in the next legislative session. Those 14 representatives and 3 senators from Aroostook will be voting on this bill. Before you cast your ballot in November, do you know how the candidates feel about gay rights legislation?

On September 1st, Northern Lambda Nord asked each of the 28 candidates, through a one-page letter: "If elected to the Maine Legislature, will you support...legislation to grant equal protection under the law to an as yet unprotected but large segment of our society - the lesbians and gay men of Maine? Would you be willing to co-sponsor such legislation?"

As of this writing, of the 28 candidates surveyed, only

one has responded: Paul Violette of Van Buren, candidate for the Maine Senate from the 32nd District. He said he holds a "personal belief on my part that whatever one's sexual orientation as long as it does not hurt others, should be protected equally under the laws of the State of Maine." In 1979, he was the only Aroostook representative in Augusta to support LD 860, the "gay rights bill". He deserves our support this year.

What do the candidates in your district feel about gay rights legislation? The easiest way to find out is to give them a call. Let them know that there are people in their constituency who care about equal rights for all citizens. Urge them to support gay rights. You needn't give your name, just say that you live in their district. Their names, phone numbers (where available) and districts are listed below. (some candidates are unopposed)

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In an important US Congressional race, Olympia Snowe, the incumbent, is being challenged by Harold Silverman, State Senator from Calais. Olympia Snowe's record on support of lesbian/gay issues is public - she has not been supportive. She pledged to "support the civil rights of all Americans. I would certainly never support legislation intended to deny the rights of a specified group of citizens", yet she did support such anti-gay legislation in Congress, a bill which would have prohibited federal legal-aid funds from being used in cases "promoting, defending or protecting homosexuality." (This amendment to a Legal Services Bill passed the US House but fortunately did not make it through the Senate - primarily as a result of the constituent pressure by gays via phone calls and telegrams, organized by the Gay Rights National Lobby.) Where Ms. Snowe stands right now is unknown. She could use a phone call (she has an '800' number). There may be help for her...and for us in the long run.

Harold Silverman has, as per the 27 other Aroostook candidates, failed to answer an inquiry to his stand on gay-supportive legislation. You may want to call him too.

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Finally, the Presidency. Briefly, Ronald Reagan supported the rights of gay teachers in California (he opposed the "Briggs Amendment", which was an obviously unconstitutional law designed to prohibit even discussion of homosexuality in schools) but he is definitely not a gay rights supporter. A Reagan presidency would not advance the cause of civil liberties (he was opposed to the Civil Rights Acts in the '60's, designed to help Blacks, though now he says it was the right thing to do.) He is not on our side.

Jimmy Carter has stated several times (including the last time he ran for president) that he would issue an executive order to protect gays in the federal government. He says he's for us. But he's done little in 4 years (we did make it to several White House meetings, including lesbian and gay representation at the Conference on Families and lesbian presence on the President's Council on the Status of Women).

John Anderson is one of 55 co-sponsors of the current gay rights bill in Congress. He has a supportive record on civil libertarian issues. He has demonstrated his pro-gay stand by his voting record. He would be good for us.

Ed Clark, the candidate of the Libertarian Party, has taken a pro-gay stand. His party stands for civil liberties.

Two other presidential candidates who will be on the ballot in Maine are Barry Commoner of the Citizen's Party, and a candidate from the Communist Party, USA. This writer is not familiar with their position on lesbian/gay issues.

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The decision is up to you. Go to the polls and vote. But vote intelligently. Know your candidates. Call them and ask questions. You're placing your future in their hands. If you cannot support a candidate (if both choices are anti-gay, or just non-supportive), the Massachusetts Gay Political Caucus recommends a write-in: choose a famous gay person and write in her/his name. It's better to express your displeasure by voting against a candidate than by not voting.

"The liberation of homosexuals can only be the work of homosexuals themselves." -- Kurt Hiller, 1921.

MAINE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS:

- #7- Richard McKean (Dem,incumb).....Limestone.....325-4547
 - no opposition
- #8- A. Forrest Nelson (Rep,incumb)..New Sweden....896-5502
 - Fernald Anderson (D).....Stockholm.....896-5235
- #9- Philip Peterson (R, incumb).....Caribou.....496-6001
 - Nancy Cleckner (D).....Caribou.....496-6821
- #10- Kenneth Matthews (R, incumb)....Caribou.....498-3317
 - no opposition
- #11- Mary MacBride (R, incumb).....Presque Isle..769-0421
 - Cecil Brown (D).....Presque Isle..762-7261
- #12- Carol Stewart (R).....Presque Isle..
 - John Lisnik (D)Presque Isle..764-0827
- #13- Hilda Martin (D).....Van Buren.....868-2802
 - no opposition
- #14- John L. Martin (D, incumb).....Eagle Lake....444-5560
 - Lewellyn Duprey (R).....Eagle Lake....444-5529

- #15- Raynold Theriault (D).....Fort Kent.....834-3082
 - no opposition
- #16- Edward McHenry (D, incumb).....Madawaska.....728-4654
 - Jayne Corey (R).....Madawaska.....
- #17- Luman P. Mahany (D, incumb).....Easton.....488-2741
 - Edward I. Johnston (R).....Fort Fairfield
- #18- Carl W. Smith, Sr.(R,incumb)....Mars Hill.....425-6181
 - no opposition
- #19- Michael W. Quint (D).....Houlton.....532-3400
 - Gennette M. Ingraham (R).....Houlton.....532-2415
- #20- Carl B. Smith (D).....Island Falls..463-2192
 - (Mr.) Beverly Rand (R).....Island Falls..463-2558
- MAINE SENATE DISTRICTS:
- #31- Francis Lamar (D).....Presque Isle..762-1831
 - James McBreairsty (R, incumb)....Caribou.....496-2541
- #32- PAUL E. VIOLETTE (D).....Van Buren.....868-2247
 - no opposition (you may want to call, thank him for his
 stand on lesbian/gay rights, and express your support)
- #33- Merle S. Johnston (R).....Ft. Fairfield..496-5874
 - Michael Carpenter (D, incumb)...Houlton.....532-2491

US CONGRESS:

- Harold Silverman (D).....Calais.....454-2271
 - Olympia Snowe (R).....1-800-432-1599
 (Presque Isle office..764-5124)

SOME FAMOUS GAYS: (source:Gay American History, by J. Katz)

- * Gertrude Stein (author, art patron)
- * Alexander Hamilton (American statesman)
- * Bessie Smith (blues singer)
- * James Buchanan (15th US President)

*** A federal judge, ruling that the US AIR FORCE has unclear standards for dealing with gay persons in the service, has ordered it to reinstate Leonard Matlovich. Five years ago the Air Force dismissed Matlovich, then 32 and a Bronze Star Vietnam War veteran, after he declared his homosexuality. The service has been directed to "promptly readmit" the former sergeant at the rank and salary he would have obtained had he not been "unlawfully discharged." Matlovich also won five years' back pay, expected to amount to over \$50,000. ▼

*** Border officials of the US IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE will no longer be officially permitted to interrogate foreign visitors they suspect of being homosexual in order to exclude those visitors from entry into the US. Such visitors may still be excluded if they make voluntary declarations that they are gay. This new policy states that no one seeking entry into the US will be asked about her or his sexual preference. However, if a visitor is wearing a "gay

pride"-type button or T-shirt, or indicates her or his homosexuality verbally, she or he may be detained for questioning.▼

***The SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS has ruled in favor of Bunny King, a lesbian who has been attempting to regain custody of her children. The court found that there is no evidence to suggest a correlation between a mother's homosexuality and her fitness as a parent, and that a lower court's finding that "a lesbian household would adversely affect the children" was without basis. This is a major victory for lesbian and gay parents throughout the US. It is the first written opinion on a high court level which states in no uncertain terms that a parent's sexual orientation cannot be used to deny custody.▼

*** In response to a letter re: the ANTI-GAY AMENDMENT to a Legal Services Bill which was supported by Olympia Snowe and which passed the US House, SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL OF MAINE wrote: "I am deeply concerned over any proposal which would have the effect of discriminating against any individual or group of citizens. Should the proposed amendment come before the Senate again I will vote against it." The amendment had been deleted from the bill's Senate version. THANKS, GEORGE!▼

*** A St-John man who was DISMISSED FROM HIS WAITER'S JOB FOR BEING GAY has presented his case to the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, via the Fredericton group, FLAG. The Commission has been reviewing the case, even though gay people are not specifically protected in the Rights Code.▼

*** The ATLANTIC GAY CONFERENCE will be held in Halifax on November 7-9. As one of the lesbian/gay groups in the Maritimes, NLN will definitely be there. If enough NLN members desire to attend, we can arrange group transportation, but it is necessary that we plan early. If you wish more information, write to NLN or, better yet, come to our October 26th meeting. Reports from last year's conference indicate that it should be an excellent gathering.▼

*** Planning has begun for the 8TH MAINE GAY SYMPOSIUM next April. Participation by NLN members is urged. Representatives from our group are providing input into the planning committee, whose second meeting was held October 4th.▼

*** The weekend of September 19-21 saw nearly 50 MEN GATHERED for a meeting in midcoastal Maine. Billed as a "festive retreat for gay and bi-sexual men of all ages", the men, ranging in age from late teens to "over 65" were from Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. They participated in 8 workshops/discussion groups over the 2-day session, plus various social activities. A similar weekend will probably be organized for mid-winter or spring.▼

*** Portland, Maine will witness a "TAKE BACK THE NIGHT"

MARCH on November 1. The march is being held to demonstrate the need for women and men to address issues surrounding violence in their lives. The "Take Back the Night" marches are saying that it should be safe for anyone to be out at night without fear. The program will include workshops, presentations, a dinner followed by a rally, the march, and then a post-march celebration. Keynote speaker will be Andrea Dworkin, noted feminist. Donations are needed to help defray expenses. Organizers feel that women can make a public statement against rape, pornography, and other forms of violence. For information: Betsy Whitman, 101 Danforth Street, Portland, 04101, 207/775-0232.▼

*** DIGNITY is an international organization of LESBIAN/GAY CATHOLICS, who are seeking a more constructive interrelation with the Roman Catholic Church. Dignity/Maine is now established, one of 100 US and Canadian chapters. Members believe that lesbian/gay Catholics are part of Christ's mystical body and have "an inherent dignity as God's Creation." Dignity/Maine is prepared to minister through various pastoral services, recognizing the lesbian/gay community as full and equal members of the one Christ. Dignity/Maine, Box 7021, Lewiston, 04240.▼

*** The 1980 Continental General Assembly of the UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCHES of North America has passed a resolution calling upon its member churches to renew their 1970 commitment to end discrimination against gay, lesbian and bi-sexual persons.▼

*** At NLN'S SEPTEMBER MEETING, during our first pre-winter snowstorm, 6 persons were chosen as members of the executive committee: 3 Canadians and 3 Americans. Three members will serve for 3 months, 3 for 5 months.▼

*** NLN's first GAYLA HALLOWE'EN PARTY will take place on Friday night, 31 October. Everyone is requested to WEAR A COSTUME! We will surely have a goolishly gay old time.▼

*** An invitation has been received by NLN from GAYS IN QUEBEC. We will be planning a visit to Québec City in the near future to meet the lesbians and gay men of that region.▼

*** NLN has DONATED A BOOK to the Cary Public Library in Houlton. Titled "Rights of Gay People", it is published by the American Civil Liberties Union. One of our members purchased the book and presented it to the head librarian on behalf of the members of NLN. The librarian was grateful for the gift.▼

*** ROOMMATE WANTED - GWF looking for GF to share 3-bedroom apartment in Fort Fairfield. Share of rent will be \$110. If interested, write c/o NLN, POB 990, Caribou.▼



It's not the first time qu'on nous fait des
affaires comme ça
I'm fuckin' fed up d'être traité comme
un paria.

Refrain

I'm fuck' fed up d'être traité comme
un paria (bis)
I just want to love et puis vous n'me com-
prenez pas!

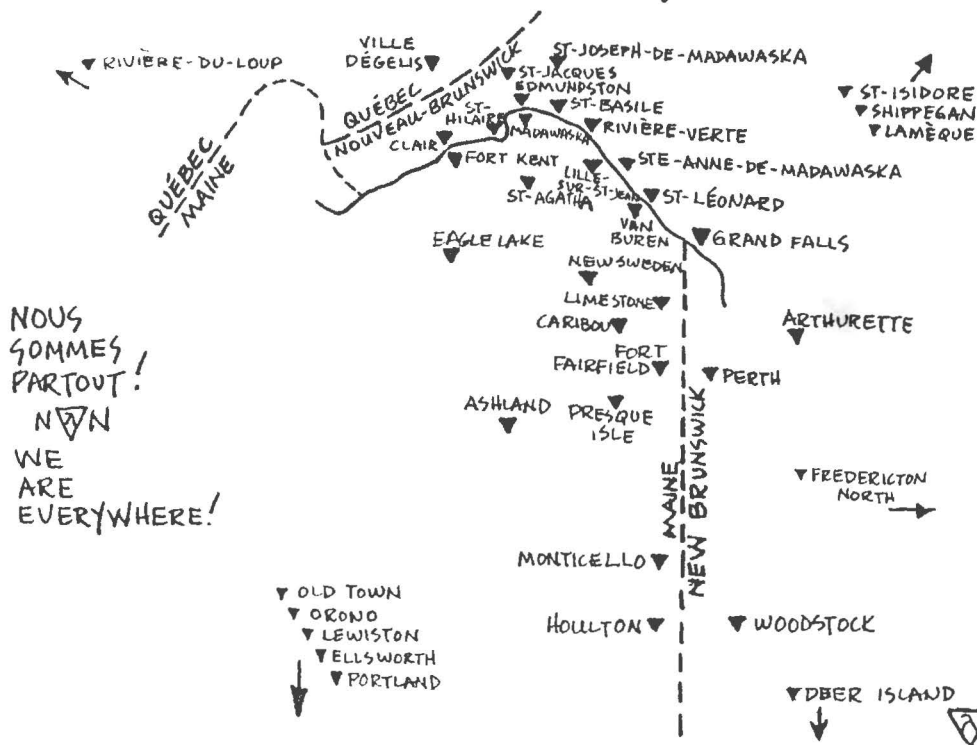
Refrain

▼

Un peu d'humour

Un bon Acadien avait toujours cru qu'Elizabeth était
reine d'Angleterre parce qu'elle avait vendu plus de
billets que les autres duchesses. ▼

Qu'est-ce qui est noir et rouge?
(Une araignée qui saigne du nez!!) ▼



LES MILITANTS CHANTENT

La majorité de nos lecteurs ont déjà appris la nouvelle de la descente policière au Sauna David de Montréal, en avril dernier. Depuis cet incident plusieurs manifestations de gais et lesbiennes, à l'égard des loups du maire Drapeau, se sont organisées dans la métropole du Canada-français. Voici une chanson qui est vite devenue une favorite à l'occasion de ces marches.

"I Went to the Sauna"

(Sur l'air de "I Went to the Market" de Allan Mills, reprise par Gilles Vigneault. Adapté par Jean-Michel Lagacé et autres.)

I went to the sauna ma serviette sous mon bras (bis)
The first guy I met was a flic, je l'savais pas.

Refrain:

I love you, vous n'mentendez guère,
I love you, vous n'm'entendez pas!

The first guy I met was un flic, je l'savais pas (bis)
And what have you got dessous cette serviette-là?

Refrain

And what have you got dessous cette serviette-là?(bis)
I showed him mon cul et pis on s'coucha là.

Refrain

I showed him mon cul et pis s'coucha là (bis)
Then he pulled out his gun, un mandat pis m'arrêta.

Refrain

Then he pulled out his gun, un mandat pis m'arrêta(bis)
Took me to Bonsecours, et la nuit on passa là.

Refrain

Took me to Bonsecours, et la nuit on passa là (bis)
He told me to sit down, ferme-là et reste là.

Refrain

He told me to sit down, ferme-là et reste là (bis)
It's not the first time qu'on nous fait des
affaires comme ça.

Refrain

It's not the first time qu'on nous fait des
affaires comme ça.

Gai Symposium du Maine

Les préparations pour le 8^e Gai Symposium du Maine ont débuté. Les organisateurs se sont rencontrés à Augusta, la fin de semaine du 5 octobre. Lambda Nord y était représenté.

Parmi les suggestions que nous avons proposé lors de cette première rencontre organisationnelle, je souligne la demande que quelques ateliers se déroulent en français afin de mieux accommoder les Franco-Américains gais de cet état de la Nouvelle-Angleterre et les visiteurs francophones de l'Acadie et du Québec.

Je ne vous annonce absolument rien de nouveau lorsque je vous dis que notre langue et notre culture francophone est dans une situation fort minoritaire sur le continent de l'Amérique du Nord. Mais malgré notre petit nombre, nous nous devons de promouvoir ce riche héritage que nous ont légué nos ancêtres. Aussi, à toutes les occasions possibles, il est fort important de faire connaître notre présence sur cette terre d'Amérique. Lambda Nord se propose de travailler vers cet objectif. C'est pourquoi nous nous empressons de demander à nos lecteurs francophones (Américains, Acadiens ou Québécois), qui sont en mesure de présenter un atelier en français, de bien vouloir nous rejoindre à Lambda Nord, en y joignant le ou les ateliers dont vous pourriez animer. Nous vous en serions très reconnaissant.

Ce symposium est cédulé aux environs du mois de mars 1981. Il est essentiel à Lambda Nord d'y être présent, puisque notre association représente la population gaie de l'énorme comté de l'Aroostook au Maine en plus du nord-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick et du l'émiscouata-sud, tous les deux étant des régions frontalières avec ce grand état américain, qu'est le Maine.

La prochaine rencontre organisationnelle aura lieu le 15 novembre prochain, à Augusta. D'ici cette prochaine rencontre: Vive le monde gai! Vive la francophonie! Vive le monde gai de la francophonie! ▼

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PENSEES:

Les meilleures leçons que j'ai reçues de la vie ne sont pas tellement celles qui m'ont enseigné de nouvelles choses, mais bien celles qui m'ont appris à désapprendre certaines vieilles choses.

--Charles E. Jones ▼

Celui qui ne laisse rien au hasard mène peu de choses à mauvaise fin, mais il ne mène que très peu de choses.

--Charles Beaudelaire ▼

Λ NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD

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IL FAUT SE PARLER!

Notre réunion du mois de septembre fut très fructueuse à plusieurs égards. D'abord après un long silence durant l'été, il fut très agréable de renouveler de sympathiques amitiés. De plus, nous avons accueilli trois nouveaux membres, ce qui est toujours fort encourageant.

Lors de cette réunion, un nouvel exécutif fut élu. Six membres siègent sur ce conseil. Nous leur souhaitons beaucoup de succès et d'inspiration.

Notre prochaine activité sera un bal costumé à l'Halloween. Il est à souhaiter que les membres de Lambda Nord et leurs amis(es) participeront en grand nombre. Les boissons vendus à cette fête seront au profit de notre organisation.

En terminant, un gros merci aux hôtes et aux organisateurs de cette dernière réunion.

J.J. ▼

BALANIDE

C'est un plus petit coeur
Avec la pointe en l'air;
Symbole doux et fier,
C'est un plus tendre coeur.

Il verse, ah! que de pleurs
Corrosifs plus que feu,
Prolongés mieux qu'adieu,
Blancs comme blanches fleurs!

Vêtu de violet,
Fait beau le voir yssir
Vois ô tout le plaisir
Qu'il donne quand lui plaît!

Comme un évêque au choeur
Il est plein d'onction
Sa bénédiction
Va de l'autel au choeur.